

What Is Ticket to Work?



TICKET
to **Work**

WISE
Work Incentive Seminar Event

MARCH 25, 2025

Live Webinar Will Begin at 3 p.m. ET

What Is Ticket to Work?



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to **Work**

WISE

Work Incentive Seminar Event

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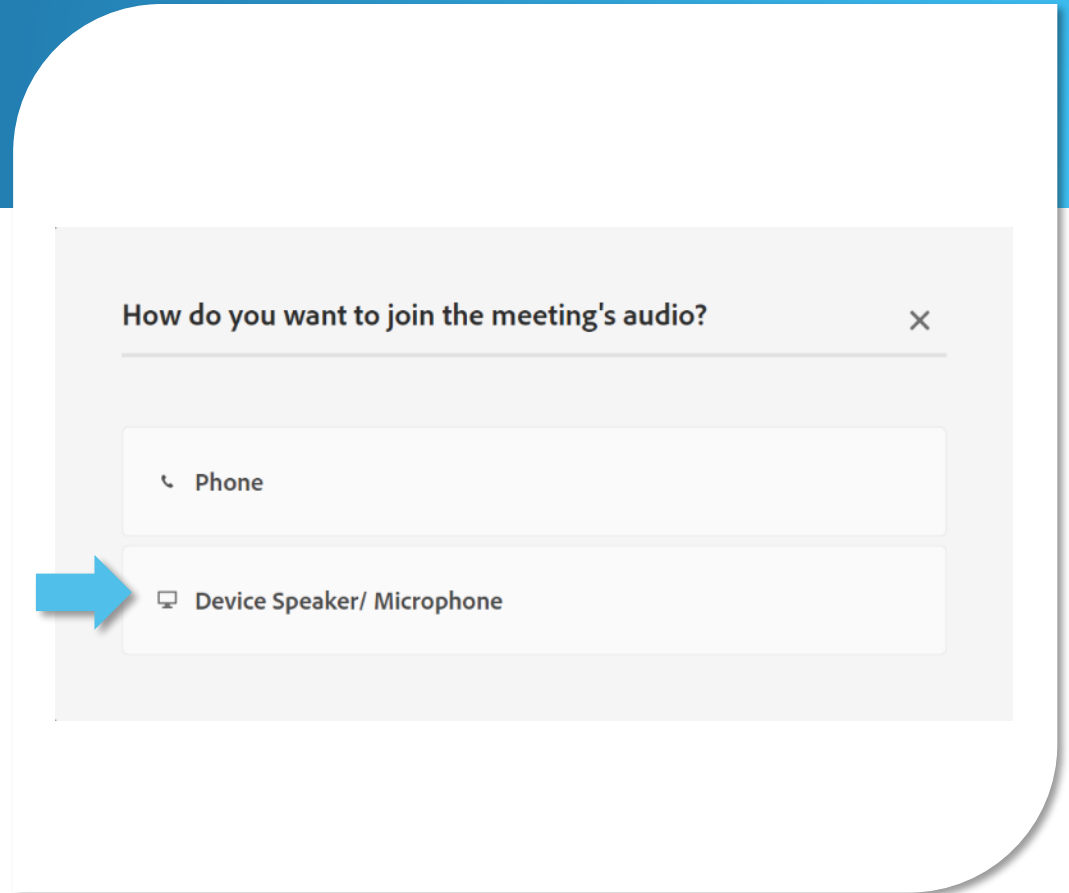
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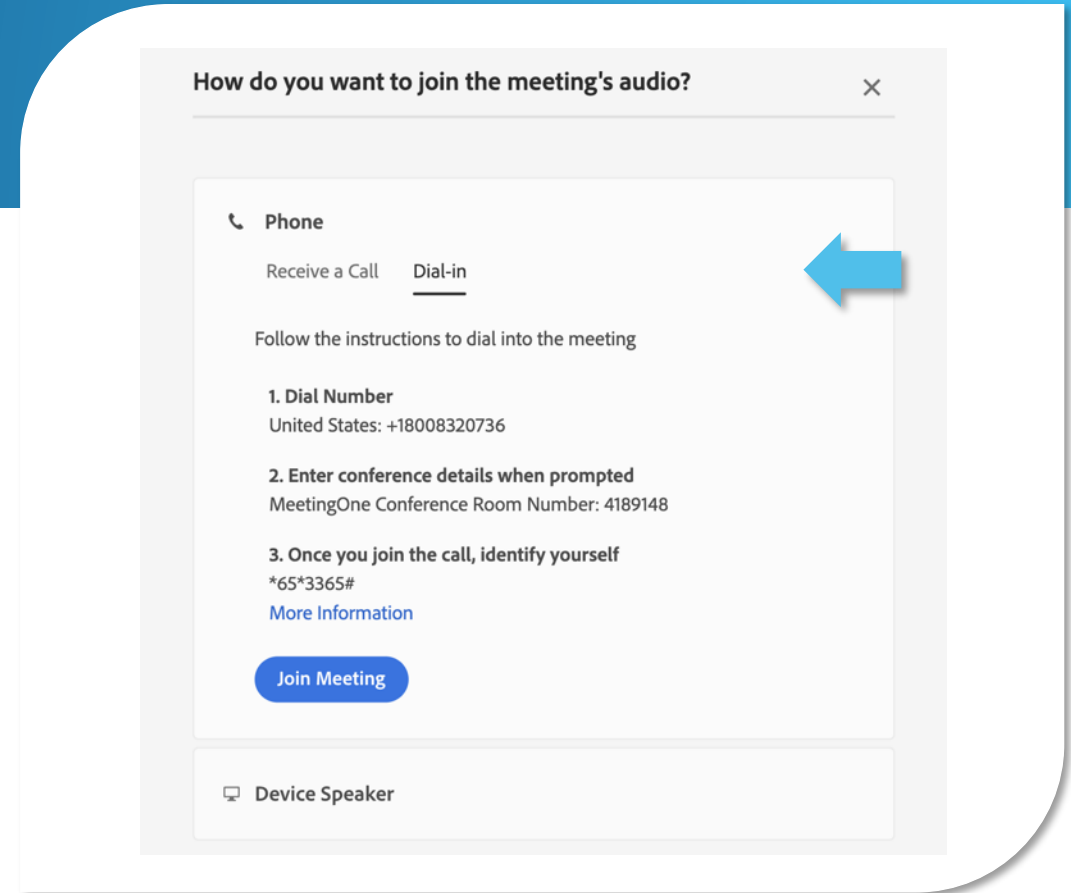
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American Sign Language (ASL)

If you're fluent in ASL and would like support during today's webinar, use our [ASL User Guide](#) that provides instructions to connect with an interpreter through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Video Relay Service (VRS).

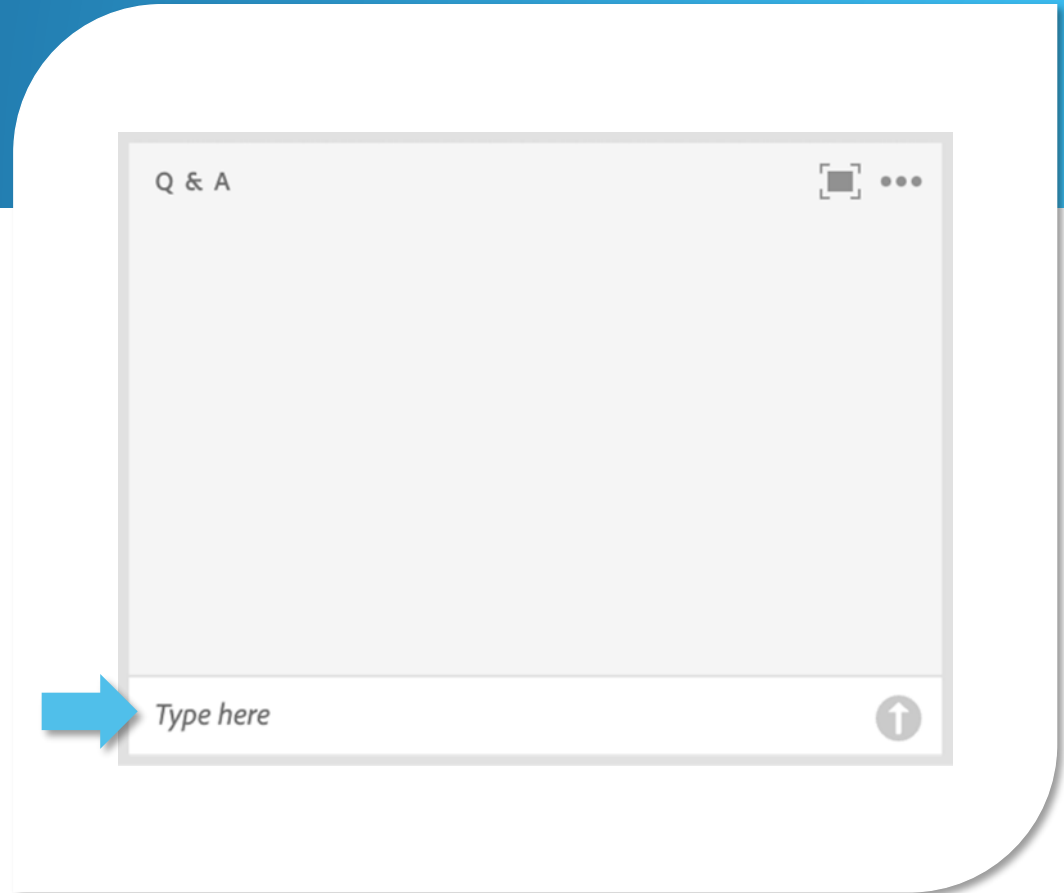


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Please use the **Q&A pod** to submit any questions you have during the webinar, and we will direct the questions accordingly during the Q&A portion.

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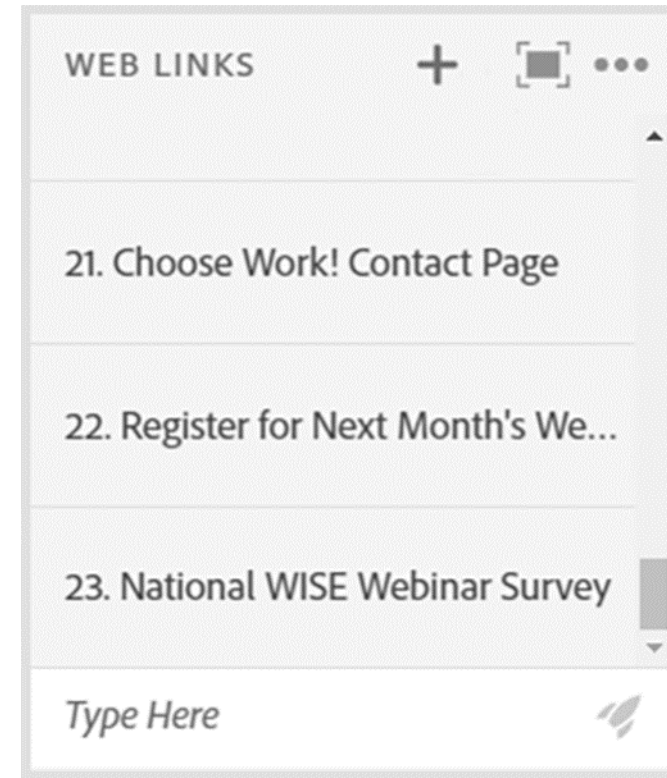


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WELCOME

Presenters



MODERATOR

Derek Shields

Ticket Program Manager



PRESENTER

Raymond A. Cebula, III, J.D.

Cornell University

Webinar Overview

Today, we'll discuss how Social Security's Ticket to Work (Ticket) Program can help you and answer questions like:

What Is Social Security's Ticket to Work Program?

Can I Work and Keep My Social Security Disability Benefits?

What Do I Need to Know About Wage Reporting?

Who Can Help Me Achieve My Work Goals?



What Is Social Security's Ticket to Work Program?

Social Security Disability Programs



**Social Security
Disability
Insurance
(SSDI)**



**Supplemental
Security
Income
(SSI)**

What Is the Ticket to Work Program?

The Ticket to Work Program

- Is a free and voluntary Social Security program
- Offers career development for people ages 18 through 64 who receive Social Security disability benefits and want to work



How Can the Ticket Program Help?

The Ticket to Work Program connects you with free employment services to help you:

- Decide if work is right for you
- Prepare for work
- Find a paid work opportunity
- Succeed at work

Learn More:

[What is Social Security's Ticket to Work Program?](#)

[Self-Guided Tutorial](#)



Ticket to Work Help Line

The Ticket to Work Program offers a toll-free Help Line to answer your questions and support you on your journey to financial independence.

Call the Ticket to Work Help Line
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. ET

1-866-968-7842

1-866-833-2967 (TTY)



**Can I Work and Keep
My Social Security
Disability Benefits?**

Yes! Work Incentives Can Help

Social Security has safety nets in place, called Work Incentives, that allow you to keep some or all of your benefits while you try work.

- **Work Incentives** are programs and rules that help beneficiaries enter, re-enter, or continue employment by protecting their eligibility for benefit payments and/or health care coverage until they can replace their Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit payments with earnings from employment or self-employment, according to Social Security's standards.
- Whether you're looking for a job for the first time or returning to work after an injury or illness, Work Incentives can help you through the transition to work and toward financial independence.

What Is the Trial Work Period?

- The Trial Work Period (TWP) is one of the many Work Incentives available to people who receive **SSDI**.
- If you receive SSDI, your TWP allows you to test your ability to work for at least 9 months.
- During your TWP, you'll receive full SSDI benefits, no matter how much you earn – as long as you report your work activity and continue to meet Social Security's rules for disability.



How Is the Trial Work Period (TWP) Calculated?

- The TWP continues until you accumulate nine TWP service months (not necessarily consecutive) within a rolling 60-month period.
- Social Security uses the amount you have earned in a month before subtracting taxes, to decide if a month counts toward your TWP. In 2026, if you earn \$1,210 or more, or work more than 80 hours of self-employment in a month, you're considered to have worked a TWP "service month," which is counted toward your TWP.



How Can You Get More Information?

Take a look at our [Trial Work Period Fact Sheet](#) to learn more about the Trial Work Period and about another Work Incentive that's available when you complete your Trial Work Period, called the **Extended Period of Eligibility**.



What Is a Plan to Achieve Self-Support?

A Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) is a Work Incentive for SSI recipients. It is a written plan of action for pursuing a specific work-related goal.

- A PASS describes the steps you will take and the items and services you will need to reach your work goal.
- When you have an approved PASS, Social Security does not count the money you set aside to help you reach your work goal when determining your SSI payment amount.

Who Is Eligible for PASS?

If you receive SSI or can become eligible to receive SSI, you may qualify for a PASS.

- If you receive SSDI, you may become eligible for a PASS if you have a work goal that would allow you to earn enough income that you no longer qualify for SSDI.
- You would need to meet all other qualifications for a PASS and set aside enough of your SSDI payment that you could become eligible for SSI.





What Do I Need to Know About Wage Reporting?

Why Is Wage Reporting Important?

- Wage reporting is an important step to help avoid being overpaid by Social Security.
- If you receive SSDI or SSI, you or your representative must promptly report any work activity to Social Security.



When Do I Need to Report My Wages to Social Security?

You or a representative must tell Social Security if any of the following changes happen:

1. You start or stop work.
2. Your work duties, hours, or pay have changed.
3. You start paying for expenses that you need for work due to your disability.



Tips for Wage Reporting

- Keep records of your payment information, so you can easily access them in the future.
 - Pay stubs
 - Pay records
 - Bank statements
- When mailing pay information, consider using “certified” mail to protect your private information.
- Ticket to Work service providers can assist you in reporting your wages to Social Security.
 - They cannot report for you.
- For the most up to date information on how to report wages, visit ssa.gov/faqs/en/questions/KA-01412.html.

Q&A





**Who Can Help You
Achieve Your Work Goals?**

Achieving Your Work Goals with Ticket to Work

As you think about returning to work and possibly changing jobs or careers, you may have questions and need support.

- Connecting with a **Ticket Program service provider** can help you develop achievable goals and establish steps to find and maintain employment in your new career.
- Ticket Program service providers can help you identify the type of job or career you might enjoy and any transferable skills you may have.

Ticket Program Service Providers

Through the Ticket Program, you'll have access to a variety of Ticket Program service providers, including:



Employment
Networks
(EN)



State Vocational
Rehabilitation
(VR) Agencies

Employment Network (EN)

An **EN** is a private or public organization that has an agreement with Social Security to provide free employment support services to people who are eligible for the Ticket Program.

Many state public workforce systems, such as American Job Centers, are **Workforce ENs**.



How Can Working With an EN Help You?

Services and supports are designed to help you on the path to financial independence through work and may include helping you to:

- Identify your work goals
- Write and review your resume
- Prepare for interviews
- Request reasonable accommodations
- Receive benefits counseling



State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agency

A **State VR agency** provides a wide variety of services to help people with disabilities return to work, enter new lines of work, or enter the workforce for the first time. A State VR agency may offer benefits counseling and may also be able to help you with:

- Vocational rehabilitation
- Training and education



Some states have separate VR agencies that serve individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

How Can Working With a VR Help You?

VR agencies:

- Usually work with individuals who need more significant services.
- In some states, this includes intensive training, education, and rehabilitation.
- They may also provide career counseling and job placement assistance as well as counseling about how earnings from work may affect Social Security disability benefits.



How Do You Find a Service Provider?



For a list of service providers, call the Ticket to Work Help Line at **1-866-968-7842** or **1-866-833-2967 (TTY)**, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. ET



To find a service provider online, visit the [Find Help page](#). Search by:

- ✓ ZIP code
- ✓ Services offered
- ✓ Disability type
- ✓ Languages spoken
- ✓ Provider type
(EN, Workforce EN, VR)



Success Story: Meet Matt



Matt's Success Story

Matt received SSDI due to hearing loss and other medical issues that interfered with consistent employment.

"I always wanted and planned to work... to be productive, build a career and earn more money."

His VR counselor explained that Social Security's [Ticket to Work](#) (Ticket) Program could provide the comprehensive employment services he needed.

Matt's VR counselor connected him with [Community Integrated Services \(CIS\)](#), a Pennsylvania-based EN.

[Matt's Success Story](#)



Connecting to His Employment Network (EN)

- Matt worked with a job development team at CIS that included a career counselor, an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, and a [Benefits Counselor](#).
- After helping Matt develop his resume, locate potential job leads, and practice interview skills, Matt's career counselor advised him about reasonable accommodations and his legal rights under the **Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**.



What Did Matt Do?

- Matt and his counselor identified accommodations that were essential for him, and he decided to disclose his disability and request accommodations.
- Matt did secure employment. On the job, Matt's primary means of communication is by keyboard. Using email is the best way for him to communicate with coworkers.
- Because Matt can read lips, one-on-one meetings are more productive than meetings with larger groups. In large meetings, he needs an interpreter to help him participate fully.



Matt Achieved Financial Independence!

- Matt was hired as a full-time Human Resources Assistant by his EN.
- Matt's role at CIS has evolved and he has since taken on more responsibility and is managing employee benefits and unemployment claims.

“I am in a supportive environment and position that work well for me. It feels good to be productive and now I can afford things I could not have before.”



Q&A



How To Get Started

Social Security's Ticket to Work Program has resources ready to help you get started!

Call the Ticket to Work Help Line

1-866-968-7842

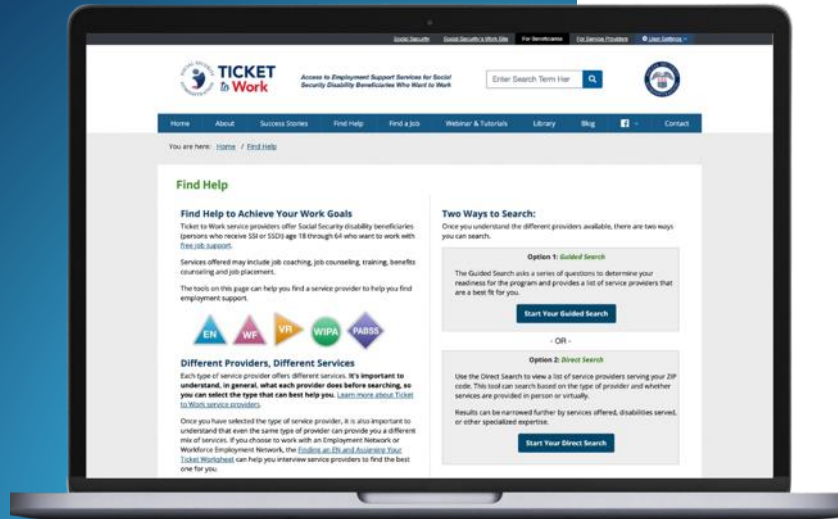
1-866-833-2967 (TTY)

Visit Our Website

choosework.ssa.gov

Use the Find Help Tool

choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp



How To Connect



Visit the [Choose Work! Contact page](#) to find us on social media and subscribe to blog and email updates.



Opt-in to receive text messages by texting TICKET to 1-571-489-5292. Standard messaging rates may apply. You may opt-out at any time.



Email us at TicketToWork@ssa.gov.

TICKET
to **Work**

WISE

Work Incentive Seminar Event

Join Us for Our Next WISE Webinar!

Debunking the 3 Biggest Myths About
Working While Receiving Disability Benefits

April 22, 2026

3 – 4:30 p.m. ET

REGISTER ONLINE

or call **1-866-968-7842** or
1-866-833-2967 (TTY)